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Memorandum

To: Trialists

Fr: Curtis Meinert

Re: Should directors of Coordinating Centers be on DSMBs?

My Farm Sociology posting yesterday drew objection to my point that the director of the coordinating center should be a member of the DSMB. The reader wrote:

I do take issue with one of your recommendations: "Membership on DSMB for coordinating center director." What happens these days is that DSMB members have appropriate expertise and are completely independent of the trial, so no, the coordinating center director is not a member of the DSMB.

In my world I want a monitoring body that has expertise **and** understanding of how data are collected. Outsiders may have the expertise but lack understanding of nuances of the protocol and data collection methods.

What do you want? A DSMB that is pure as the driven snow or one with all hands on deck. I know what I want and said so in my posting.